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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bjorn PAULSHUS et al. ) Group Art Unit No: 3635  
Serial No: 09/871,608 )  
Filed: May 31, 2001 ) Examiner: C Nguyen  
For: TENSION MEMBER ) Attorney Docket No. 7822-82871

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment prior to examination of the present application.

In the Claims

Cancel claims 1-9.

Please add claims 11-19 as follows.

A' Sub 11. A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

12.2 The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.